



May 4, 2021

Rhode Island State House
House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony supporting **H 5789**

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) thanks the Senate Committee on Labor for the opportunity to submit this testimony in **support of H 5789**, which would expand the benefits of Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) in Rhode Island.

RIPIN is a statewide nonprofit has been supporting families with children with special needs since 1991. We have evolved over the last 30 years and now support families and individuals across the lifespan. As a peer-led organization, over three-fourths of our staff are parents or caregivers of a loved one with special needs, connecting our staff to our clients and our mission. RIPIN is the federally designated Family Voices Family to Family Health Information Center and Parent Training and Information Center. Over half of our staff are Certified Community Health Workers with many more on the path to certification.

RIPIN supports TCI and its expansion because we see firsthand how a program like TCI can allow our staff, and those we serve, to maintain an income and employment when a life changing event happens. RIPIN Peers advocate every day for services and systems that will meet the needs of the communities we serve. We are parents and caregivers of the young, the medically fragile, those with social emotional and behavioral challenges, rare diseases, elderly and more. We know to expect the unexpected. TCI can allow us to focus on the well-being, safety, and comfort of our loved ones, instead of how we are going to work and provide optimal care. It allows us to continue to maintain quality staff that are essential to providing our unique services to all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of the proposal to expand TCI. We know that by expanding the definition of caregivers who are able to access this benefit and allowing more time off needed to care for loved ones, we can strengthen our communities as well as our workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Salganik", is positioned above the printed name.

Samuel Salganik, JD
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